RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, 6th May 1997/16 Vaisakha 1919 (Saka).

The House met at eleven of the clock.

Mr. Chairman in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

चाय विकास योजना

†*421. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने देश में दस वर्षीय चाय विकास योजना तैयार की है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या यह भी सच है कि इस योजना के अंतर्गत दक्षिण भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में चाय उत्पादन को बढ़ावा देने के लिए विभिन्न सुविधाएं उपलब्ध कराए जाने का विचार है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो ये सुविधाएं क्या है और विकास योजना के अंतर्गत समय-सीमा तथा उत्पादन का लक्ष्य क्या है;

(घ) क्या सरकार इस योजना का देश के अन्य क्षेत्रों में भी विस्तार करने का विचार रखती है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री बोल्ला बुल्ली रमैया) (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नही उठता।

Shortfall in Tea Export

†*430. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of Indian tea during 1996 and target fixed theeof; and

(b) the reasons for shortfall in country's tea export in 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULI RAMAIAH) (a) Estimated production of tea in India during the Calender year 1996 was 780 million kg. Targets for the production of tea are fixed on financial yearwise basis and for the financial year 1996-97 the target of production was 790 million kg.

(b) Decline in exports of tea during the year 1996 has been on account of lower imports of tea by Russia under the debt repayment route and lower exports to Poland, Ukraine, Egypt etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Q. No. 421.

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Sir, I request you to club questions 421 and 430.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will club them together.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Sir, considering that this Government is busy with many other important things, I am not surprised at their ignorance. This is a subject which has attracted so much attention. Here is the *Business Standard* of 19th November. Here is the *Hindustan Times* of the same day. Articles on this topic have been appearing almost every day and the Government says that there is nothing. I am quite sure that it is a case of either total negligence or ignorance or newness. The only supplementary that I can put is: Will the hon. Minister give an assurance that he will look into the newspaper material. There are detailed proposals. One of the proposals says that the total production of Indian tea, which is now 754 million kilograms, is expected to increase by 18 million kilograms. in the next ten years. Now this has raised a serious problem. The Tea board is in a financial mess. The people in the South are asking for a Rs. 100 crore subsidy for tea. The Tea board is making some suggestions to the Government and the Minister quietly says there is nothing at all and 'a', 'b', 'c' questions don't arise.

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: On the 9th, he was not sure of his existence.

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: The

†प्रश्न सं * 421 और * 430 को साथ-साथ लिया गया।

†Question no * 421 and 430 were taken together.